



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

April 2020 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

May 2: Indiana QSO Party Operation **NOTES FOR THIS MEETING: This is the Saturday of the Indiana QSO Party. This will be a “virtual meeting”. Watch the club’s website and reflector for more details.**

June 12: N3FJP logging program and other Field Day planning. **Hopefully this will be an “in person” event. Watch the club’s website and reflector for more details.**

Highlights from the April Meeting:

In order to comply with the Governor’s “stay at home” and social distancing orders, the April meeting was held on line, utilizing the *Zoom* platform. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were approximately 40 logged in for most of the meeting (At one point, there were 43 logged in). David is going to request the use of the IN ARRL Zoom account for a meeting on INQP day.

The April meeting was our ARRL presentation from Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, to bring us up to date on what’s going on at the ARRL. There are 15 divisions in the ARRL. The ARRL Board of Directors is elected by the membership of their respective division. The President of the ARRL is Rick Roderick, K5UR. First Vice President is Michael Raisbeck, K1TWF. Second Vice President is Bob Vallio, W6RGG. Vice President for International Affairs is Rod Stafford, W6ROD. Treasurer is Rick Niswander, K7GM. CFO is Diane Middleton, W2DLM.

Kermit stated that at the January meeting of the Board of Directors, the CEO, Howard Michel, WB2ITX, was not re-elected by a split vote of the Board. Barry Shelley, N1VXY, is now serving as interim CEO. The CEO position was advertised in the April edition of QST.

Kermit gave us a review of what has been going on lately with some of the Committees of the Board of Directors:

The DX Advisory Committee rejected a proposed change to the 5 band DXCC requirements. The Public Service Enhancement Working Group is working toward an upgrade. The HF Band Planning Committee is working on trying to regulate Automatic Control Station locations. The Administration and Finance Committee approved a reduction in the membership dues for those below 26 years of age. They are working on possibly a “digital only” membership at no less than 10% less than full membership. Also working on modifying Lifetime membership for those 70 years of age or older. On regulatory issues, AMSAT and ARRL have filed comments with the FCC addressing satellite debris. This will be discussed at the April 23 meeting. From the ARRL EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Committee, chaired by Kermit, work is continuing on trying to regulate non-compliant devices that cause QRN, such as cheap switching power supplies. Wireless charging of Electric Vehicles is being looked at, as related to RF noise and general safety. Kermit noted that recent filings with the ITU suggest there is no difference in QRN levels between Urban and Rural Environments. This is based on a 1975 study, and the data is definitely out-dated. Kermit then went over how and where measurements were made in an updated report. Kermit said the replacement for the OO (Official Observer) Program, FCC Volunteer Monitor Auxiliary has over 2000 hours of volunteer time. There were over 175 applicants to the program, with none turned down. Kermit said contest rules for HF and VHF/UHF are being addressed to keep “robot” stations from making legitimate contacts, similar for DXCC credited contacts. Kermit said the Entry Level License Committee is going to look at establishing “sub-bands” on 80, 40, and 15 meters, including CW, Data, and phone operation, in addition to the current 10 meter allocation. This is currently a recommendation to the ARRL board. Kermit went into details on each of the amateur bands, comparing the present band plans with the proposed ones.

Kermit’s presentation was very much appreciated by the club.

Ham Radio News:

W1AW TO LIMIT TRANSMIT SCHEDULE

In response to an executive order from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont that all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities reduce in-person workforces because of COVID-19 pandemic concerns, W1AW has slightly altered its transmission schedule.

W1AW has suspended its morning code practice and qualifying run transmissions. However W1AW's evening transmissions, including qualifying runs, will be sent as usual -- there are no changes to the evening transmit schedule.

W1AW remains closed to the public.

Please see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-headquarters-is-closing> for further details.

HAMVENTION QSO PARTY ANNOUNCED

The Dayton Hamvention for 2020 has been canceled. The Wide Wide Radio Operators Foundation, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers, wanted to create a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air – the Hamvention QSO Party. This will be a 12 hour operating event (12:00 to 24:00 UTC), scheduled to be held on what would have been the Saturday of Hamvention, May 16. Point your browser to <https://wwrof.org/hamvention-qso-party/> for all of the details.

SOME INTERNATIONAL POSTAL DESTINATIONS SUSPENDED

If you direct QSL to international hams, be aware that due to widespread transportation cancellations and restrictions, the Postal Service™ will temporarily suspend international mail service to several destinations. Go to <https://www.usps.com/international/mail-shipping-services.htm#countries> for the complete listing.

ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST POSTPONED

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 response and mitigation actions, the 2020 Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test scheduled for Saturday, May 9, has been postponed.

Because it's uncertain just when stay-at-home orders will be lifted across the US, AFD planners chose to postpone this year's event, because the government stations that typically support this event may not be available.

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test planners are considering scheduling a November event in honor of Veteran's Day, depending on COVID-19 mitigation actions.

During the AFD Crossband Test, military stations in various locations transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham frequencies they are monitoring to work radio amateurs.

UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: May 02 2020
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 876-8689
Email: wfwootton@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State ARc
Date: May 16 2020
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Scott W. Nelson
(812) 320-2790
Email: scott@w9dba.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: REMC Bldg
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: May 19 2020
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EOC
200 Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Mooresville IN 46158-1333
Sponsor: Formidable Amt Radio Team
Date: May 20 2020
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Bill Spann
(317) 831-5582
Email: wlspann@iquest.net
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Brown Township Government Ctr
471 N Samuel Moore Pkwy
also: 3176507528
Mooresville IN 46158-1333

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the April, 1950 *Amachewer*:

Newest additions to the station equipment at the shack of George Phillips, W9EMK, are a wire recorder and Hunter Cyclemaster. George has been busy recording stuff off the air and playing it back to local ten meter phone operators, much to their amusement. With the Cyclemaster he says he has the ultimate in a VFO/exciter unit, and can now really go after the DX or locals either, with more than his usual success.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

● ~~May 15 - 17: Hamvention 2020 at Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. Info at <https://hamvention.org/>~~

HAMVENTION CANCELED

● July 10 -11: Indianapolis Hamfest at Marion County Fairgrounds. See <http://www.indyhamfest.com/index.html> for more info.

2020 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – davids@mediamachine.com
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - dm0584213@gmail.com
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - w9mgb@arrl.net
- Chief Operator: Quinton Ritter, KD9MVK - qritter@ivytech.edu
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – k9ru@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - n9nic@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - jr9554@sbcglobal.net
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net